

### Night School

Whether you have a serious interest in a particular subject area or merely wish to engage in leisure-time learning, chances are you'll find something worth pursuing among the night-school courses offered by your local school board. Some of these courses are credit courses leading to a Secondary School Graduation Diploma; others are non-credit courses centring on some hobby or leisure-time interest such as weaving, yoga, wine-making, and gourmet cooking.

Anyone is eligible for admission to these non-credit courses, upon approval by the night-school principal. He or she can also advise you if you wish to earn credits towards a Secondary School Graduation Diploma. You may discover that your work experience, schooling you received in another country, or courses you have taken may entitle you to credits towards your diploma. To find out the night-school principal's name, contact your nearest secondary school, your local school board office, or the nearest regional office of the Ministry of Education.

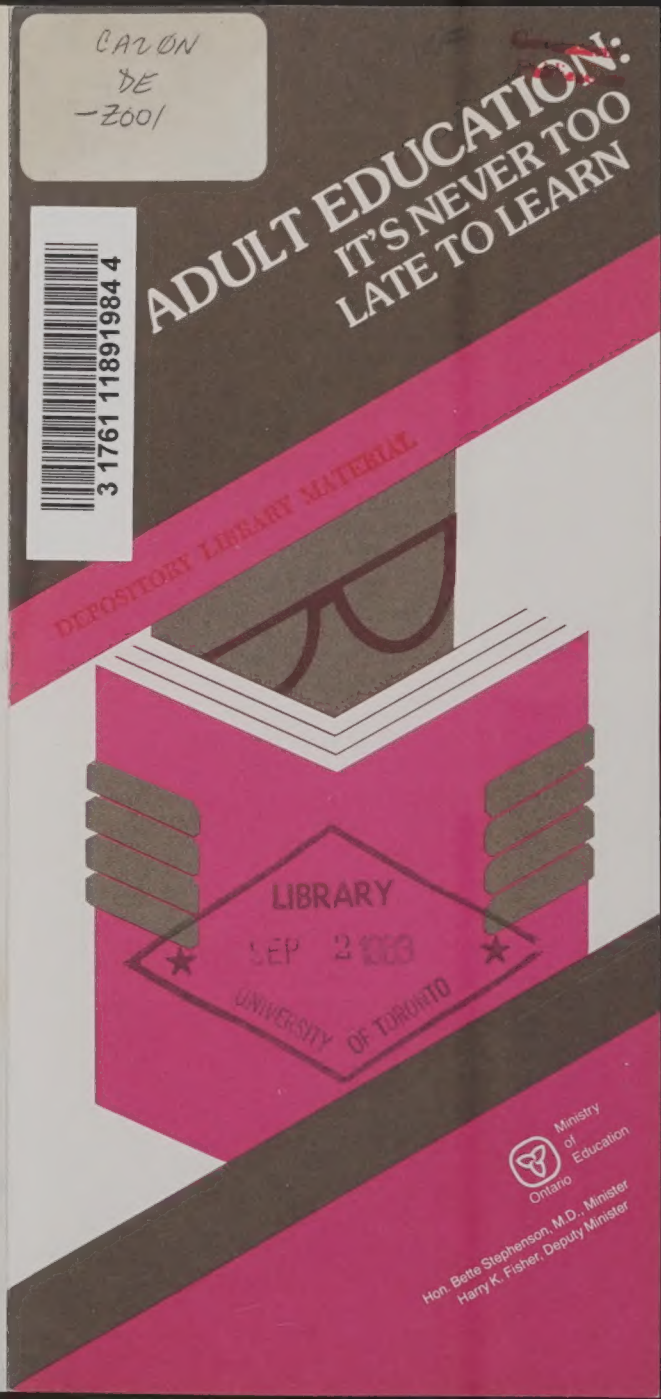
Night-school courses are offered in most communities at nominal cost. Your public library probably has a list of the courses offered in your area.

### More Information

Other pamphlets in this series tell more about education in Ontario. For copies, please contact:

Ministry of Education  
Communication Services Branch  
Queen's Park  
Mowat Block, 14th Floor  
Toronto, Ontario M7A 1L2  
Telephone: (416) 965-6407

Toll-free calling may be available in your area; please check the blue pages of your telephone book.



## Earning Your High School Diploma: Facts You Should Know

People fail to finish secondary school for many reasons, but that doesn't mean they stop learning. This is why the Ontario Ministry of Education has adopted the policy of granting *equivalency credits for mature students*. Under this policy, individuals who wish to resume their education are granted credits for the learning experiences they have acquired since they left school. In essence, this means that if you wish to earn a Secondary School Graduation Diploma, you may be much closer to your goal than you realize; you may in fact have more of the 27 credits required than you think. You may be awarded as many as 23 credits for past schooling and other experiences.

Since leaving school you may have been involved in an apprenticeship-training program at your job. Or maybe you've taken a home-study course in television repair, or computer programming, or art. You may have obtained a Red Cross certificate in first aid. Each case has to be considered on its own merits, but chances are that some of the courses you've taken since you left school are worth something towards a diploma.

In addition, a *maturity allowance* (up to 12 credits) may be given on the basis of your age and the length of time you've been out of school. There'll be credits for every year of high school you've finished, even way back when — as many as 7 credits for every year successfully completed.

However, in order to obtain your diploma, you'll have to do some further study, no matter how many equivalency credits you obtain. You must earn at least four additional credits, all in third- or fourth-year secondary school subjects. These may be earned by attending day or night school, by taking correspondence courses, or, in some cases, through private study.

Getting that diploma will still be hard work. It may take some doing to catch up on subjects you've forgotten, or to adjust to the way things are taught today. And before your equivalency credits are granted, you may have to show that you can work at the level assigned.

For information regarding the equivalency credits you may be eligible to obtain, talk to the principal of a secondary school or to an official of your local board of education.

### Correspondence Courses

Who learns by correspondence? In Ontario, about 50 000 people do — for all kinds of reasons. Some people enrol in correspondence courses because they are unable to attend school; some because they feel they're too old for regular classes; others because they haven't time for night classes; and still others because they want to learn at their own pace or in their own place. Some of these people are upgrading their knowledge in one particular subject; others are working towards a Secondary School Graduation Diploma.

If you live in Ontario, are sixteen years of age or older, and meet a few basic requirements, you are eligible to enrol. For most people, study by correspondence won't cost a penny. You begin a course whenever you like. You work at your own speed. You earn a credit for a completed course at any time of the year. When you have a total of 27 credits (remember that courses you completed in the past will be credited too), you'll be awarded your Secondary School Graduation Diploma just as you would be if you had attended a regular secondary school.

And just how does a correspondence course work? In most cases, you are supplied with everything free of charge, including lessons, textbooks, supplementary reading materials, cassette tapes, records, kits for some visual arts and science courses, and instruments. (At the Grade 13 honour diploma level, you pay for your own texts.) Each course includes a number of assignments. You mail in each assignment as soon as you have completed it; it is reviewed, graded, and returned to you with the teacher's comments and suggestions. In the meantime, you move on to the next lesson.

And what can you learn this way? Correspondence courses are available in a wide range of disciplines and practical subject areas — business and commerce, drafting, English, French, German, history, the social sciences, Latin, mathematics, the sciences, the visual arts. That's just a sampling. (There's also a complete elementary school program, in English or French, for children who are unable to attend regular classes.)

For information, eligibility requirements, and help in selecting courses that will lead you to your chosen objective, write to Correspondence Courses, Ministry of Education, Ontario, 909 Yonge Street, Toronto, Ontario M4W 3G2. You may also find it helpful to talk to your secondary school principal or to an official in the nearest regional office of the Ministry of Education.

At the post-secondary level, Ryerson Polytechnical Institute and many community colleges and universities offer post-secondary credit courses by correspondence. A catalogue of these courses is available from the University of Waterloo, Waterloo, Ontario N2L 3G1.